

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) Ministry of Tribal Affairs has formulated a draft National Tribal Policy, 2007 in order to address the issues concerning tribals viz. lower Human Development Index, poor infrastructure, diminishing control over the natural resource base, persistent threats of eviction from their natural habitat, exclusion from mainstream society, inequality in distribution of wealth and opportunities, non-empowerment and inadequate implementation of constitutional provisions, and to ensure their active and informed participation in development. The policy aims at ensuring access of the Scheduled Tribes to mainstream education, healthcare and income generation to improve the quality of their life. Action has already been taken for its finalization as per procedure. No time-frame can be given at this stage.

Representation by Medana community

2274. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a representation is pending with Government to forward the study of Medana community of Andhra Pradesh to Andhra Pradesh Government for their views;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have received this study about Medanas of the State from the Mysore office of the Anthropological Survey of India nearly a year ago;

(c) if so, the reasons for the lack of action;

(d) by when Government would forward the report to get the views from the State Government; and

(e) the steps proposed to expedite this matter?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) No, Sir. But a representation enclosing a study conducted by the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) on the Medari community of Andhra Pradesh was received. The AnSI was then requested to confirm the study.

(b) to (e) The report from the AnSI, Kolkata recently received in this Ministry has been forwarded to the Andhra Pradesh Government for necessary action.

Inclusion of Banjara and Anwal in tribal community

†2275. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a request from Uttarakhand Government to include social groups like Banjara and Anwal in the tribal community;

(b) whether Government are aware that both these social groups fall under the roving tribal community (Ghumantoo) and there has been a demand to include them among tribes for a long time; and